DOCKET NO.: HITACHI-0029 PATENT

Serial No.: 10/016,209

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Amdt. dated January 5, 2005

Response to Office Action of October 5, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraph starting with "According to a second aspect" beginning on page 2, lines 10-29 with the following amended paragraph:

According to a second aspect of the current invention, a system for designing an information flow process, includes: a data storage unit for storing a predetermined set of activity names in a predetermined sequence, the activity names respectively representing certain service operations; an input/output unit connected to the data storage unit for displaying the activity names as information provider activity names and information consumer activity names according to the predetermined sequence in a predetermined data flow definition (DFD) matrix format and for receiving user input data for specifying an information name, one of the information provider activity names and a corresponding one of the information consumer activity names; and a processing unit connected to the input/output unit and the data storage unit for organizing relationships among the information provider activity names, the information consumer activity names and the information names at a position in the predetermined DFD matrix format representing data to be transmitted from the information provider activity name to the information consumer activity name, the processing unit storing the relationships in an entity relation (ER) source information file, wherein the input/output unit for receives additional user data via a structure data-flow (SDF) input screen for further determining associated detailed activities of a selected one of the activity names, the processing unit updating the predetermined DFD matrix format based upon the associated detailed activities for displaying the activity names, the processing unit further storing the activity names with the associated detailed activities in the ER source information file.

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Please replace the following paragraphs starting with "According to a third aspect" beginning on page 2, lines 30-31, continuing on page 3, lines 1-32 and ending on page 4, lines 1-7 with the following amended paragraphs:

According to a third aspect of the current invention, a system for designing an information flow process, includes: a data storage unit for storing a predetermined set of activity names in a predetermined sequence, the activity names respectively representing certain service operations; an input/output unit connected to the data storage unit for displaying the activity names as information provider activity names and information consumer activity names according to the predetermined sequence in a predetermined data flow definition (DFD) matrix format and for receiving user input data for specifying an information name, one of the information provider activity names and a corresponding one of the information consumer activity names; and a processing-unit connected to the input/output unit and the data storage-unit for organizing relationships among the information provider activity names, the information consumer activity names and the information names at a position in the predetermined DFD matrix format representing data to be transmitted from the information provider activity name to the information consumer activity name, the processing unit storing the relationships in an entity relation (ER) source information file, wherein the input/output unit displays a service function design table based upon information from the ER source information file, the service function design table allowing a user to define a new service function, the input/output unit further receiving additional user input data at least for systematization factors, the processing unit storing the systematization factors and the information in the service function design table as a new function description.

According to a fourth aspect of the current invention, a system for designing an information flow process, includes: a data storage unit for storing a predetermined set of activity names in a predetermined sequence, the activity names respectively representing certain service operations; an input/output unit connected to the data storage unit for displaying the activity

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names as information provider activity names and information consumer activity names according to the predetermined sequence in a predetermined data flow definition (DFD) matrix format and for receiving user input data for specifying an information name, one of the information provider activity names and a corresponding one of the information consumer activity names; and a processing unit connected to the input/output unit and the data storage unit for organizing relationships among the information provider activity names, the information consumer activity names and the information names at a position in the predetermined DFD matrix format representing data to be transmitted from the information provider activity name to the information consumer activity name, the processing unit storing the relationships in an entity relation (ER) source information file, wherein the input/output unit displays a service information design table based upon information from the ER source information file, the service information design table allowing a user to define new service information, the input/output unit receiving additional user input data at least for systematization factors, the processing unit storing the systematization factors and the information in the service information design table as an input/output information overview.

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Please replace the following paragraphs starting with "According to a fifth aspect" beginning on page 4, lines 9-32 with the following amended paragraphs:

According to a fifth-second aspect of the current invention, a system for designing an information flow process, includes: a data storage unit for storing a predetermined set of activity names in a predetermined sequence, the activity names respectively representing certain service operations; an input/output unit connected to the data storage unit for displaying the activity names as information provider activity names and information consumer activity names according to the predetermined sequence in a predetermined data flow definition (DFD) matrix format and for receiving user input data for specifying an information name, one of the information provider activity names and a corresponding one of the information consumer activity names; and a processing unit connected to the input/output unit and the data storage unit for organizing relationships among the information provider activity names, the information

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consumer activity names and the information names at a position in the predetermined DFD matrix format representing data to be transmitted from the information provider activity name to the information consumer activity name, the processing unit storing the relationships in an entity relation (ER) source information file, wherein the input/output unit receives additional user input data for selecting sequential pairs of the activity names and the information names from the DFD matrix, the processing unit storing the sequential pairs of the activity names and the information names into an event trace table, the processing unit reading one of the activity names from the event trace table, the processing unit causing the input/output unit to display the one of the activity names in an event record column in an event trace diagram, the processing unit reading a corresponding one of the information names from the event trace, the processing unit causing the input/output unit to display the corresponding one of the information names in a row that corresponds to the one of the activity names in the event record column.